(c) the details of monthly expenditure incurred on it so far;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the permanent solution of ULFA problem and the result thereof; and

(e) the details of number of persons killed, injured seriously and kidnapping done by ULFA since 1 July, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The entire State of Assam stands declared as 'Distursed Area' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. At the request of the State Government, the Army has been deployed in Assam in aid of the Civil Authority.

(c) The monthly expenditure on deployment of the Army in Assam is Rs. 6.3. crores approximately.

(d) The State Government has time and again asked the ULFA to abjure violence, accept the Constitution of India, release the hostages and come to the negotiating table. To create a congenial atmosphere the State Government also released about 500 ULFA detenus.

(e) ULFA has been responsible for 142 violent incidents resulting in the death of 53 persons and injuries to 41 others, since 1st July, 1991. This includes 65 incidents of kidnapping in which 81 persons were kidnapped of whom 17 were killed.

S.T.D. in Headquarters of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

609. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the district headquarters in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have been linked with S.T.D. facility; and

(b) if not, the time by which all the districts are likely to be provided S.T.D. facility?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) By March, 1992.

[*English*]

Pension to Freedom Fighters of Gujarat

610. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some applications for grant of pension to Freedom Fighters received during January 1, 1989 to October 31, 1991 from Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat were rejected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of such freedom fighters of district Jamnagar who are getting pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) During the period only nine applications from the State of Gujarat including Jamnagar District have been rejected.

(b) These did not fulfill the eligibility criteria laid down in the Central Pension Scheme.

(c) As no application from freedom fighters of Jamnagar District has been received during the period the question of grant of pension to them does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Delhi

611. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding not issuing telephone connection to the public for several months even after the issuance of O.B. in the Rohini, Raja Garden, Janak Puri, Shahdadra and Laxmi Nagar Telephone exchanges of Mahanagar telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whereas in Rohini Exchange there is no spare capacity available at present, in Rajouri Garden, Janak Puri, Shahdara and Laxmi Nagar Exchange areas, some pockets are technically non-feasible due to non-availability of cable pairs.

(c) A new telephone exchange in Sector-IX of Rohini is under installation and is likely to be commissioned by end of December, 1991. As regards Rajouri Garden, Janak Puri, Shahdara and Laxmi Nagar Exchange Areas, action has been taken to augument the cable network by laying new cables as also with the help of pair gain systems. All these pending cases are expected to be cleared by 31.3.1992.

Norms for Telephones to Journalists

612. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been fixed for giving telephone connections to the journalists on priority basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Accredited journalists ar entitled to register themselves under Non-OYT-Special category which is a priority category for allotment of telephone connections.

Faulty Telephones of Journalists

613. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special arrangements have been made by Delhi Telephone for Journalists for lodging their complaints regarding telephone faults;

(b) if so, the reasons for not removing the telephone faults in time; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir, such an arrangement exists for accredited Journalists.

(b) Telephones of the accredited journalists reported faulty are promptly attended to; but these faulty due to break down of under-ground cable or its theft, however, takes a little longer.

(c) Immediate action is taken to attend the fault as: and when reported. The disposal of these complaints is closely supervised by the concerned officers and monitored at the level of Area Manager/ Area General Manager.

[*English*]

Security for Diplomatic Missions

614. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASAN PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the view of recent kidnap-